

*Bone* safety check means for causing the display means to display a telop informing a driver of the end of the parking drive.

53. (Twice Amended) A vehicle drive assist device comprising:

a camera for picking up an image in a frontward area of a vehicle;

*Ba* display means for displaying the image from the camera;

storing means for reading and storing the image picked up by the camera; and

drive assist means for transmitting the image stored in the storing means to an information center and acquiring information for a vehicle drive assist on the basis of the image stored in the storing means.

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 and 55-86 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 53 have been amended. The claims have been amended solely to more clearly recite the claimed invention. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-19, 22-52 and 55-86. However, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants assert claims 20, 21 and 53 are also allowable.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Abersfelder et al. (hereinafter "Abersfelder"), U.S. Patent No. 5,646,614. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert Abersfelder fails to teach or disclose a vehicle parking assist device comprising drive assist means for detecting a drive condition and judging whether the drive mode is a parking mode and when the drive mode is a parking mode causing the display means to display the image picked up by the camera and an image for

parking drive assist as well as safety check means for displaying on the image for the parking drive assist a telop to urge a driver to make a safety check as recited in claim 20. Similarly, Applicants respectfully assert Abersfelder fails to teach or disclose a vehicle parking assist device comprising drive assist means for detecting a drive condition and for checking if the vehicle is backing for parking and when the vehicle is backing, also displaying drive assist information for parking as well as safety check means for checking an end of a parking drive on the basis of the result of the obstacle detection by the optical sensor and when the parking drive ends, the safety check means causing the display means to display a telop informing a driver of the end of the parking drive as recited in claim 21.

Applicants claimed vehicle drive assist system is advantageous by providing a device which itself detects a drive condition of the vehicle in addition to monitoring the vehicle's environment and informs the driver of the need for a safety check. In addition, Applicants claimed vehicle drive assist device is advantageous by providing a driver with a telop informing the driver of the critical condition, which helps prevent the driver from focusing on the display instead of the actual surrounding environment.

In contrast, Applicants respectfully assert Abersfelder teaches a system for monitoring the rear or front space of a motor vehicle that is being parked (Abstract). In particular, the object of Abersfelder is to disclose a monitoring device with a video camera which is equipped with means for pivoting the video camera as a function of electric drive signals sent to the camera. Further, the monitoring device disclosed in Abersfelder is particularly concerned with the use of video cameras which follow an object, once the object is detected, in terms of the object's image sharpness (col. 1, lines 42-46). The object being tracked is followed by way of autofocus, either over the whole search field or over the whole image angle which allows the distance measuring field or sharpness measuring field to move along with the object (col. 1, line 66 - col. 2, line 5). As a result of the combination of the pivoting



and object reference image sharpness control features of the video camera used in the monitoring device disclosed in Abersfelder, an object limiting the rearward or forward penetration depth of the vehicle can be seen up until contact (col. 2, lines 5-14). Thus, Abersfelder provides a system for monitoring the front or rear of a vehicle which provides the driver with an image of the obstacle detected by way of a camera which can be pivoted to expand the field of detection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits Abersfelder fails to teach or disclose a vehicle drive assist system comprising drive assist means for detecting the drive condition of a vehicle and safety check means for displaying a telop as recited in claims 20 and 21. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Maekawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,530,771. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit Maekawa fails to teach or disclose a vehicle drive assist device comprising storing means for reading and storing the image picked up by the camera and drive assist means for transmitting the image stored in the storing means to an information center and acquiring information for a vehicle drive assist on the basis of the image stored in the storing means as recited in Applicant's claim 53. In particular, Applicants' claimed vehicle drive assist device is advantageous by effectively providing information, such as for example, alternative routes or traffic information, to the driver based on the image stored in the storing means.

In contrast, Applicants respectfully assert Maekawa discloses an image tracking device which is preferably used in a system handling a moving situation of a vehicle in its running direction (Abstract). The device disclosed in Maekawa is particularly concerned with providing a means for tracking an object which is able to differentiate the object being tracked from the background. As such, Maekawa fails to teach or disclose the transmission



of the image stored in the storing means to an information center in order to acquire and provide drive assist information to a driver.

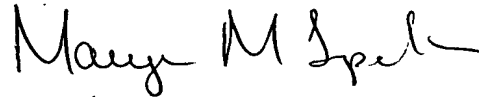
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert Maekawa fails to teach or disclose a vehicle drive assist device comprising storing means for reading and storing the image picked up by the camera and drive assist means for transmitting the image stored in the storing means to an information center and acquiring information for a vehicle drive assist on the basis of the image stored in the storing means as recited in claim 53. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

It is noted that claim 55 depends from claim 53. Applicants understand the indication that claim 55 is allowed really means the claim is allowable over the applied art, i.e., claim 55 is objected to.

In view of the foregoing Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 20, 21 and 53 in addition to already allowed claims 1-19, 22-52 and 55-86, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Maryam M. Ipakchi  
Registration No. P-51,835

JAO:MMI/sxb

Attachment:  
Appendix

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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## APPENDIX

The following is a marked-up version of each amended claim:

21. (Twice Amended) A vehicle parking assist device comprising:

a camera for picking up an image of a backward area of a vehicle;

display means for displaying the image picked up by the camera;

obstacle sensor for detecting presence or absence of an obstacle in the backward area of the vehicle;

drive assist means for detecting a drive condition and for checking if the vehicle backs for parking, the drive assist means, when the vehicle backs, ~~for~~ also displaying drive assist information for parking; and

safety check means for checking ~~the~~ an end of a parking drive ends on the basis of the result of the obstacle detection by the obstacle sensor, and when the parking drive ends, the safety check means for causing the display means to display a telop informing a driver of the end of the parking drive.

53. (Twice Amended) A vehicle ~~drive~~ parking assist device comprising:

a camera for picking up an image in a frontward area of a vehicle;

display means for displaying the image from the camera;

storing means for reading and storing the image picked up by the camera; and

drive assist means for transmitting the image stored in the storing means to an information center and acquiring information for a vehicle drive assist on the basis of the image stored in the storing means.

